



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

All Your Soul

JUNE 23, 2014

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Scripture Passage

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. Mark 12:30

Introduction

In our first study we considered the general issue of loving the Lord. Jesus said this is the greatest commandment. But a moment's reflection would remind any of us that we do not even come close to keeping His mandate. If we fail to keep the primary commandment of God we must face the uncomfortable fact that Paul shared in Romans 3:10, *"None is righteous, no, not one."*

In our last study we noted loving God is a matter of the heart—the center of our emotions, thoughts, feelings, longings, and virtues.

Now we will examine what it means to love God with our soul.

Your Soul

The "soul" in Scripture is the animating power of God that makes us a person.

...then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature. Genesis 2:7

The word "breathed" is the same Hebrew root word for soul. Our soul is a creation of God.

The Image of God

We are made in the image of God. We are something other than complicated biological machines, and we

are more than animals. We are persons, and relationally share in the personal aspects of the Trinitarian God.

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.
Genesis 1:27

The Individual Soul

But, we are also more than a category called "man" (which includes women). We are particular persons, individuals that are unique and are precious in God's sight. There is no one like you and there is no one like me. It is amazing enough that God knows the number of hairs on someone's head, but he also knows the "someone." Out of billions of people, He made you and He knows you, and He invites you to fellowship with Him—to love Him.

*For you formed my inward parts;
you knitted me together in my mother's womb.
I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are your works;
my soul knows it very well.* Psalm 139: 13-14

And so we are to love God as special individuals. We relate to Him with our physical gifts, our mental gifts, our particular talents, our circumstances, our heritage, our sicknesses or our health, our curiosities, our trials, and our triumphs.

Give Your Soul through Trials

Everything about our unique situation can be given to God. This is one reason James can tell us to be joyful in trials.

BIBLE STUDIES

LEGISLATORS: THURSDAY MORNINGS, 7:30 AM, LIGHT BREAKFAST SERVED

STAFF: MONDAYS, 12:00 NOON, CHAPEL, 2ND FLOOR LB

North Carolina

All Your Soul

Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. James 1:2-4

Give Your Soul

On the positive side we can use our talents as worship of God. On the more difficult side, we can suffer and show to a hedonistic culture that our personal comfort is not something to be worshipped.

So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. 1 Corinthians 10:31

Everything that makes me “me” is something I can bring to God in a loving way.

The Bible does not divide people up into parts, but while keeping this in mind, the soul is the non-corporeal part of our being. So here the stress is to love God with the non-physical part of who you are. While we may serve God with our “hands,” these hands of ours obey the wishes of our souls.

Deny Your Soul?

Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. Matthew 16:24

Loving God with your soul can mean denying your soul. This does not mean we are denying the existence of our soul, or the importance of our soul. Denying our soul means denying the fallen principles we live by.

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh

and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. 1 John 2:15-16

In Matthew 14:26 Jesus says,

“If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own **life**, he cannot be **my disciple.**” The word “life” here is the same word for “soul.”

Here we see an ironic principle that we are to love God with our entire soul but at the same time we are to be willing to give up our soul to be a follower of Christ.

The Soul that Repents

If we confess our sins, we can glorify Christ by receiving the forgiveness he offers through is sacrificial work on our behalf. Therefore, loving God is giving up something. If, as we learned previously, loving God is keeping His commands, then we give up our agenda when it does not conform to God’s will for our lives.

Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. Matthew 3:8

The first thing we give up to God is our sin. Repentance from our sinful and base instincts is the act that opens us to loving God and receiving His love in return.

I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. Luke 15:7

Summary: We are commanded to love God with all our soul, but to do this we must recognize our soul is marred by sin. Confessing our sin and receiving Christ allows us to give ourselves to God with clean motives.